

Other measures that guide out-of-home non-foster family placements, maintain services and programs for children and families, and incentivize permanency through adoption and guardianship placements.

We appreciate your bipartisan, bicameral effort to address child welfare reform, and specifically, the longstanding policy priority to expand Title IV-E for prevention so that children and parents/caregivers have access to services and interventions that maintain family stability. While the bill presents an unprecedented opportunity and many of our key leaders have shared their perspectives and concerns with Committee staff, some members will need to fully examine and understand the implications of each Title and section on their states and localities. We will continue to monitor and assess the impact of each Title and section to identify and share with you any unintended consequences. With Congress' support, we can help to ensure that all children and families can develop and live to their full potential.

Again, thank you very much for your hard work. We look forward to working with you and encourage you to contact Christina Crayton, Assistant Director, Policy and Government Affairs with questions or to request additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

TRACY WAREING EVANS,
*Executive Director,
American Public
Human Services As-
sociation.*

JULIE KROW,
*President, National
Association of Public
Child Welfare Ad-
ministrators,
Deputy Executive Di-
rector, Community
Partnerships, Colo-
rado Department of
Human Services.*

CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES,
June 13, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.*

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate.*

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,
*Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of
Representatives.*

Hon. SANDY LEVIN,
*Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means, House of Representatives.*

Hon. RON WYDEN,
*Ranking Member, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate.*

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
*Ranking Member, Human Resources Sub-
committee, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR WAYS AND MEANS AND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN BRADY AND HATCH, RANKING MEMBERS LEVIN AND WYDEN AND HUMAN RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BUCHANAN AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of Children and Family Futures, I am pleased to share our support for the Family First Prevention Services Act (H.R. 5456) introduced today by House Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and joined by eleven other bi-partisan original co-sponsors.

Children and Family Futures, a national nonprofit organization based in Lake Forest, California, has more than 20 years of experience in improving outcomes for children at the intersection of child welfare and substance use disorder treatment agencies and

family courts. We recently had the opportunity to testify at Senate Finance and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Hearings on the effects of opioids on our nation's child welfare agencies. As you may know, there are 8.3 million children—almost 11% of America's children—who live with a parent who is alcoholic or needs treatment for illicit drug abuse. About two-thirds of the children who enter the child welfare system are affected by parents with substance use disorders, and when we ask children and youth in foster care what they need the most, they often ask for substance abuse treatment for their parents so that their family can stay together. Quality substance abuse prevention and treatment is one of the cornerstones of a strong and effective child welfare system.

H.R. 5456 takes several critical steps to ensure that parents and children receive the full range of supportive services they need to heal and thrive. By allowing federal IV-E dollars to be used in a time-limited way for evidence-based prevention services, including mental health, substance abuse prevention and in-home skill-based programs, the proposed legislation provides an unprecedented opportunity for child welfare agencies to expand the services parents need to continue to care for their children safely without unnecessary foster care placements.

In addition, allowing states to draw down Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments on behalf of children who are placed in residential family treatment settings with a parent who is receiving treatment is another effective way to ensure that families can stay together while getting the services and supports they need to get back on their feet. For children whose parents struggle with alcohol and illicit drug abuse, the elimination of the time limit to allow family reunification services to be provided to any child in foster care and for up to 15 months after a child is reunited with his or her biological family will allow children of parents who are still in the very first stages of recovery to get the ongoing help they need to maintain both stability and sobriety.

CFF also strongly supports H.R. 5456's reauthorization of the Regional Partnership Grant program that provides funding to state and regional grantees seeking to provide evidence-based services to prevent child abuse and neglect related to substance abuse and revised grant requirements based on lessons learned from the most effective past grants. In addition to updating the program to specifically address the opioid and heroin epidemic, the proposal legislation leverages what has been learned to ensure that new foster care prevention funding provided under the bill is used effectively.

In addition to providing much-needed attention to prevention services for children and families who come to the attention of the child welfare system, the legislation's provisions to reduce the over-reliance on group care facilities are an equally important step in supporting children and keeping families together. The legislation's current approach to reducing unnecessary care while enhancing the protections and oversight for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTF) will ensure that young people who are struggling with their own substance use disorder or mental health issues have full access to clinically appropriate residential treatment options and that a continuum of quality services are available to help them transition back home to their families. Moreover, improving and expediting an effective assessment process and increasing judicial oversight of placement decisions on an ongoing basis also represent significant progress in connecting young people with the right services on a timely basis while also

maintaining positive family and community connections.

Untreated substance use disorders are among the most critical and devastating crises facing the nation's children and families. Thanks to the leadership and bipartisanship demonstrated by members of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees, H.R. 5456 offers a range of innovative solutions designed to keep children and families together and provide the services and supports they need to lead healthy and productive lives. We are deeply appreciative of your collective work on this bill and are confident that, if passed, it will continue to help thousands of children and families, now and for years to come.

Sincerely,

NANCY K. YOUNG,
Ph.D., Director.
SIDNEY L. GARDNER,
M.P.A., President.

IN RECOGNITION OF ABBY STEINER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abby Steiner of Dublin Coffman High School for winning the Girls 100 and 200 Meter Dash in the Ohio High School Division I Track and Field State Championship.

An achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the champions of OHSA state level competitions have represented the highest achieving and most talented athletes in Ohio. Each year these elite competitors join the ranks of those who embody Ohio's proud history of athletic success.

Abby's victory caps a tremendous season. This sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and hard work. She has set a new standard for future athletes to reach. Everyone at Dublin Coffman High School can be extremely proud of her performance.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Abby Steiner on her state championships. I wish her continued success in both her athletic and academic endeavors.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SALLY DENISE THORNBURG

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sally Denise Thornburg who is set to retire after beginning her career in nursing in 1973. During her 43-year career, Denise served in many roles, including Charge Nurse, Clinical Manager of the medical floor and nursing in the Intensive Care Unit.

Sally Denise Thornburg joined El Centro Regional Medical Center (ECRMC) in 1973 after graduating from Imperial Valley College

as part of the first class of its Registered Nursing program. Denise got her start on the Medical-Surgical floor and within the first 2 months of receiving her license she was promoted to Charge Nurse and later to Clinical Manager. In 1985, Denise received the Certification for Adult, Pediatric and Neonatal Critical Care Nurses (CCRN), an advanced nursing specialty she still holds today. This past April, she was recognized by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses for being one of 397 RNs nationwide to hold this certification for over 30 years. During her retirement, she looks forward to volunteering in the Intensive Care Unit at ECRMC.

I would like to commend Sally Denise Thornburg for her 43 years of dedication to ECRMC's staff and for her commitment to expanding and improving medical services in Imperial County.

FARM CREDIT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, as we near the 100th anniversary of the Farm Credit System, I rise today to commend the cooperative owners and the employees of the Farm Credit System for their continuing service in meeting the credit and financial-services needs of rural communities and agriculture.

I was pleased to cosponsor House Resolution 591, commemorating the Farm Credit System's centennial. The Farm Credit System was established by Congress through the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, signed into law on July 17, 1916, by President Woodrow Wilson. Congress designed the Farm Credit System as a permanent means to support the well-being and prosperity of the Nation's rural communities and agricultural producers of all types and sizes.

The State of Vermont is served by Yankee Farm Credit, which provides more than \$400 million in loans to more than 1,000 Vermont members, as well as financial-services such as recordkeeping, payroll, income tax preparation, consulting, appraisal, and crop insurance.

Nationwide the Farm Credit System provides more than \$237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 members.

Yankee Farm Credit is involved in the agricultural community throughout Vermont, working with Vermont's Agency of Agriculture and other organizations and agencies such as the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation, the University of Vermont Extension Service, and the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Yankee Farm Credit supports youth in agriculture. Yankee Farm Credit together with CoBank has provided more than \$10,000 in grants each to 4-H and FFA in the past three years.

Congress designed the Farm Credit System as a network of cooperatives, independently owned and controlled by its borrowers. The cooperative governance model, whereby directors are accountable to the rest of the membership is an important tenet of the Farm Credit System.

Farm Credit has demonstrated its commitment to its customer owners in Vermont for a century, and we look forward to its continued commitment for the next one hundred years.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Alabama. The Depot has a very rich history for its work in defense over the years. It continues to serve as an economic engine for Northeast Alabama.

In March of 1940, the War Department began planning construction of the Depot and by early 1941, construction began. By September, the Depot's workforce was made up of four individuals, but by November of 1942, the workforce number grew to over 4,300 individuals.

In the 1950s, the Depot's mission was to overhaul and repair combat vehicles. By the 1960s, reconditioning for a number of vehicles began.

In August of 1962, the Depot was renamed to its current name today, the Anniston Army Depot, and became an installation under the jurisdiction of the Army Materiel Command. By 1963, maintenance and storage of chemical munitions began.

In the 1970s, new vehicle overhauls began as well as conversions of vehicles and in the 1980s, missile maintenance was added as a new mission.

In August of 1992, the Depot's general supply mission was assumed by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and in 1993, the Depot became a forerunner in Public-Private Partnerships.

In the mid-1990s, a chemical stockpile was transferred to the Anniston Chemical Activity under the Chemical and Biological Defense Command.

In August of 2001, the Depot was designated as the Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for Combat Vehicles, Artillery and Small Caliber Weapons by the Secretary of the Army. In 2002, the partnership with General Dynamics/General Motors on new production of Stryker vehicles began.

In August of 2003, the Depot's stockpile of chemical munitions began to be safely and securely destroyed at the Anniston Chemical Disposal Facility. By December, the Depot and other TACOM installations fabricated Armor Survivability Kits for HMMWVs in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From 2004 through 2006, the fabrication sustainment for DOD M1 systems culminated in the creation of the Joint Assault Bridge and Assault Breacher Vehicle programs and by early 2006, production on damaged Stryker vehicles began.

In March of 2006, the Depot named the DoD Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for ground combat vehicles (excluding the Bradley), assault bridging, artillery and small caliber weapons. In October, the Depot was named the U.S. Army's organic maintenance depot facility for the Stryker.

By 2008, the first full-rate production Assault Breacher Vehicle was shipped to the U.S. Marines and in early 2009, production of the Army's Assault Breacher Vehicle began.

In August of 2009, production operations began at the Powertrain Flexible Maintenance

Facility for overhaul and repair work of reciprocating diesel engines began and by December, the Depot and General Dynamics Land Systems began a 50/50 partnership program to repair and reset Stryker vehicles.

In March 2011, the new industrial wastewater treatment plant was completed and by May the first Stryker variant pilot overhaul program began for the Infantry Carrier Vehicle.

In September 2001, the Anniston Chemical Activity completed demilitarization of chemical weapons along with the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

In January 2012, production operations started in the Small Arms Repair Facility, collocated with DLA's small arms storage facility.

In May of 2012, production operations began at the Powertrain Transmission Facility.

In May of 2014, the Depot held an induction ceremony for low-rate initial production of the M109A7 family of vehicles in partnership with BAE Systems.

By August, the Depot held a rollout ceremony for the Stryker Double V Hull Exchange Program in partnership with General Dynamics Land Systems. In September, the Depot was awarded the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence for accomplishments in ABV program.

Currently, construction has begun on a solar array in collaboration with Alabama Power, the Office of Energy Initiatives, the General Services Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Anniston Army Depot for the important work they do for our country and our warfighter and congratulate them on their 75th anniversary.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT BRIAN DARLING

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recent accomplishments of Staff Sergeant Brian Darling as well as to recognize his career of service to the United States of America.

Staff Sergeant Darling recently completed the Advanced Leaders Course at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia. Staff Sergeant Darling is a Paralegal Noncommissioned Officer serving in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Joint Force Headquarters, New Jersey Army National Guard. He has recently returned from his third deployment overseas and is about to complete his second master's degree. Staff Sergeant Darling is a decorated service member who has served our nation with honor and courage. He has managed to excel academically during his service, and balance raising his son.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously proud to have Staff Sergeant Brian Darling as a selfless and dedicated member of their community, who continues to serve and protect the freedoms and ideals of our nation. I am honored to recognize him for his recent graduation from the Advanced Leaders Course for his Military Occupational Specialty, as well as